

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-6, 9-15, 27, 28 and 30 are pending. Claims 7-8, 16-26, 29 and 31 are cancelled.

Claims 1-7, 9-17 and 19-26 are found allowable subject to being rewritten to address the objections and rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112.

As demonstrated below, the claims have been revised to address the objections and rejections.

FIGS. 1-27 of the drawings have been replaced with FIGS. 1-22 revised to address the Examiner's objections. The specification has been revised to make it consistent with the drawings amendment.

The specification, abstract and claims have been revised to address the Examiner's objections and rejections.

The title has been corrected to comply with US patent practice.

The following applicant's comments relate to the Examiner's objections to the drawings.

**Objection 1.**

"The two pairs of annular elements connected in pairs" (claim 1) is shown on fig.8 and 9. Each pair of annular elements 7 is fastened at the ends with strips 9. Strips 9 connecting pair of annular elements 7 are shown in the fig. 6.

"The driving member during rotation is in contact with the rotor covers" (claim 1) – see fig.8, where the driving member 1 is in contact with the rotor cover 14.

"The pairs of annular elements are designed to move over inner annular guides of the segmental rotor parts" (claim 2) – see fig.9, where annular elements 7 with their reinforcing plates (ridges) 16 are placed and can move in inner annular guides of segmental elements 8.

Claims 2 and 3 are corrected to address the objections.

“The pairs of annular elements embrace one another on two sides” (claim 5) – see fig.20-24 (new fig.14-18), where it is seen clearly.

“The pairs of annular elements are adapted to move in annular guides of the rotor covers” – see fig.8,9, where annular guides 7 are fastened with strips 9, which are placed in annular guides of rotor covers 14.

Claims 7 and 19 are cancelled.

Claims 8 and 18 are cancelled.

“The annular elements have reinforcing and cooling plates” (claim 12) – see fig 9, where reinforcing and cooling plates 16 of the annular elements 7 are shown.

The feature “the housing is provided with coolant passages” (claim 23) is cancelled.

Claims 29 and 30 are cancelled.

**Objections 2-12.** Corresponding corrections are made in the specification and in the drawings.

Character 13 in FIG. 1 designates possible configuration of compression chambers 5 and 6 and it cannot be shown in another manner (only in projection on the element 8).

Old FIGS.14-19 are excluded because the Applicant cancelled claims 16-26 relating to the second embodiment.

As for interaction of annular elements 7 and segmental rotor parts 8, FIG. 9 shows annular element 7 placed in an inner guide of the segmental rotor part 8, and FIGS. 1-5 show their mutual movement and action of annular elements 7 on end walls of inner annular guides of segmental rotor parts 8.

The claims have been revised to address the Examiner’s rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, first and second paragraph.

Regarding the paragraph 22 of the Office Action relating to Claim 3, the applicant respectfully submits that it is clearly seen from fig.12, that the annular elements 7 engage with the annular guides of the segmental rotor parts 8, but these annular guides are outer and not inner as in the embodiment according to claim 2. So annular elements 7 can embrace segmental rotor parts 8 and engage with their outer annular guides.

Also, the language of claim 3 is revised to address the rejection.

Regarding claim 5, the Applicant submits that in FIG.16, the first annular element 7 embraces the second annular element 7 only in the upper part of the figure. In the inner part of this figure the same first annular element 7 is already embraced by the second. It is clearly seen on the old fig.16 with different shading of these two annular elements.

Claims 10, 27 and 28 also have been revised to address the issues raised by the Examiner.

Claims 27 and 29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Zollencopf.

Claim 27 has been made dependent from allowable claim 1. Therefore, it is defined over the reference.

Claim 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 or 103 as being anticipated or obvious over Weeks.

It is noted that this rejection is improper because claim 28 depends from claim 27 which is not rejected based on Weeks.

Claim 30 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 depends from claim 27, which depends from allowable claim 1.

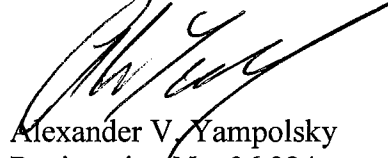
**Application No.: 10/548,406**

In view of the foregoing, and in summary, claims 1-6, 9-15, 27, 28 and 30 are considered to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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